

DHHS 2004 HIGHLIGHTS

We thought we would do a "Year in Review" article stating what we have accomplished for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people, their families and the interpreters who serve them in Indiana. We look forward to the opportunity to serve equally as well in 2005. Have a great 2005!

Indiana Interpreter Certification Program

- Held two successful meetings of a task force on training for educational interpreters with the Department of Education-Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Office and the colleges, training facilities, and not-for-profit organizations involved in training educational interpreters. The goal of this group is to create a statewide directory of opportunities for educational interpreters to receive training to comply with state CEU maintenance requirements. A further goal of the group is to create a system by which educational interpreters can cycle through the various requirements within a given number of years to make the training they receive relevant and assist them with eventual goals of preparing for national certification.
- Presented at Indiana Conference for Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) executive council meeting.
- Met with Director of First Steps program to improve interpreter use policy within that agency.
- Provided a Black Deaf Culture presentation to outside agencies by staff.
- Presented at and supported the first Deaf Educator's conference in Indiana in August.
- Presented two workshop sessions at the RID Region III Conference and were the CMP Sponsor for that event.
- Processed applications and renewals for more than 550 state certified interpreters.
- Were the Approved RID Sponsor for 24 various workshops in Indiana.

Interpreting and Community Support Services Funding

- Successfully implemented a new zero-based contracting system with Vocational Rehabilitation for interpreters to solve some systemic problems with how interpreters and CART providers and Community Support Specialists are paid.
- Held Contractor meetings to answer questions concerning the new zero based contracts.

Advocacy

- Held a successful meeting with the Governor's Office to ensure that Governor's State of the State addresses will be closed captioned on more than one television station in the future.
- Presented at the Rehabilitation Services Commission Board meeting.
- Completed report on Mental Health Town Hall Meetings in spring of 2004.



- Was selected as Ex-officio Commissioner on the Healthcare Interpreters Commission.
- Presented to DFC office staff in White county.

Telecommunication Relay Services- InTRAC

- Approved CapTel services-a new service for Hard of Hearing Hoosiers.
- Increased the financial cap on the distribution program by \$6000 per year.
- Added CapTel phones and D-link Video Relay equipment to the distribution program.

Information and Referral

- Participated in May 1, PTCO Day/Deaf Nation Expo.
- Participated in Deaf Festival in Elkhart.
- Published DHHS Gazette monthly through e-mail and the DHHS website.
- Presented at a successful Relay Forum meeting where a equipment was demonstrated.

Meetings/Conferences

- Hosted Community Agencies for the Deaf meetings.
- Hosted DHHS Advisory Committee Meetings.
- Staff attended the National Council on Independent Living Conference in Washington DC.
- Staff were involved with Black Expo.
- Staff attended the National Association of the Deaf Conference.
- Staff attended the Mental Health meeting called, "Many Voices, One Vision:"
- Attended Deaf-Blind Taskforce meetings.
- Attended Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities Commission meetings.

Introducing the DDARS Helpline

Have Questions? Contact the DDARS Helpline, we have the answers. Consumers can contact the DDARS Helpline for any questions.

Phone: 1-800-545-7763

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DHHS Gazette

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